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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated March 31, 2004, Claims 27-49 are pending. Claims 41-43 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or 103(a). Claims 27-36 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 37-40 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. However, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 37-40 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. In addition, Claims 44-48 are objected to but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 37 has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner, and Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment addresses the rejection of Claims 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim 41 has also been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 44, with minor correction. Claim 44 was previously indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 41, and dependent Claims 42, 43, and 45-49, are now allowable. The informality in Claim 43 noted by the Examiner has also been corrected.

Finally, Applicant has canceled Claims 27-36 and 44.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending Claims 37-43 and 45-49 are now allowable.

* * * *

CONCLUSIONS

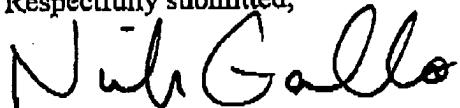
In view of the remarks presented above, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

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However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

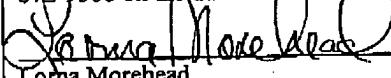


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below.


Lorna Morehead

July 27, 2004
Date

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